(d) whether 640 industries in Tamil Nadu have completed all formalities and requested for sanction of 25 per cent grant from Central Government; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has framed and implemented a Plan Scheme for technology upgradation, establishment/modernization of the food processing industries in the country. The rate of assistance is 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical/civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakh in general areas and 33.33% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakh in difficult areas. During 10th Plan, so far, an amount of Rs. 144.91 crore has been sanctioned under the scheme.

(d) and (e) In Tamil Nadu, 59 project proposals have been approved under the scheme so far, 89 proposals have been closed/rejected and in 53 cases, necessary action has been initiated.

**Loans to SC/ST Farmers by RRDB in MP**

†245. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small farmers of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes those have been granted loans by regional rural development banks in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the steps taken by Government to remove the difficulties in the way of providing loans to the small farmers by regional rural development banks; and

(c) the success achieved by Government in this regard by taking the above said steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per information furnished by NABARD, the loans given by RRBs to persons belonging to SC/ST in the State of Madhya Pradesh are as under:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Rs. in lakhs)

| 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| No. of SC/ST A/Cs | Amt. | No. of SC/ST A/Cs | Amt. |
| 156,399 | 23,004.62 | 141,947 | 26,672.79 |

(b) Steps taken by Govt.

(i) Package for doubling the flow of credit to agriculture and debt relief measures for restructuring accounts of farmers in circumstances of extreme distress due to successive natural calamities or farmers in arrears.

(ii) One time settlement scheme for small and marginal farmers and a scheme for redemption of debts of farmers taken from non-institutional sources.

(iii) RBI has issued instructions to banks to issue loans upto Rs. 50000/- without insisting for collateral or margins.

(iv) Loans for agri-clinics have been made collateral free upto Rs. 5 lakhs.

(v) Based on Vyas Committee recommendations, the banks have been asked to simplify the procedure for loan sanction.

(vi) District Level Technical Committees (DLTCs) in all States have been advised by NABARD to review the existing scale of finance to meet realistic credit needs of farmers.

(c) RRBs have been successful in enhancing the outreach of the financial system besides providing loans to individual borrowal accounts. RRBs have also financed 4192 Self Help Groups (SHGs) during the year 2004-05 and cumulatively provided financial services to 17678 SHGs including bank loan of Rs. 35.63 crore in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

**Abolition of TDS**

246. **SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee appointed by Government have suggested abolition of tax deducted at source on subscriptions to corporate bonds on a par with Government securities;**